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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/273,448 03/22/99 OHKAWA

S 1185.1044/JD

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EXAMINER

NGO, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED:

08/02/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/273,448

Applicant(s)

OHKAWA, SHINGO

Examiner

Julie-Huyen L. Ngo

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election **without** traverse of the species of the First Embodiment, Figures 1-2, in Paper No. 8 (filed April 23, 2001), is acknowledged. Claims 13-22 read on the elected species.

Claims 1-12, 23 and 24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 ✓
CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Objections

Claim 21 is objected because it merely expresses a desired result while failing to recite the structural elements and relationship necessary to provide that result, and as such it fails to structurally limit the claim from which it depends.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 17-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear from the language of the claims 17-20 how the pair of slopes are running approximately *at right angles with* the first incidence end face.

It is unclear from the language of the claim 22 how the pair of slopes running approximately *parallel* with the second incidence end face.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-16 are allowable because there is prior art of record which teaches or discloses a liquid crystal display comprising a light source having a driving circuit to drive a first primary light source and a second primary light source of a first guide plate and a second guide plate, respectively. The guide plates being laminatedly arranged so that a second guide plate's back face extends along a first guide plate's first emission face; the first and second guide plates' incidence end faces being located oppositely to each other across said guide plates; wherein the driving circuit is capable of turning off only one of said first and second primary light sources.

Claims 17-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US-PAT-NO. 5600455 discloses a prismatic member with coarsened portions or triangular prismatic and semi-circular prismatic members arranged on a flat light emitting surface.

US-PAT-NO. 5899552 discloses a surface light source device having projection rows extending on a surface of one of the light guides and in a direction perpendicular to a side end face.

US-PAT-NO. 6049649 discloses a surface light source device of side-light type having propagation direction characteristics modifier (14 of fig. 22A).

Contact Information

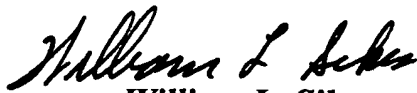
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie-Huyen L. Ngo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3508. The Examiner can normally be reached on T-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, William L. Sikes can be reached on (703) 308-4842.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7721 for regular communications and (703) 308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JLN
July 27, 2001


William L. Sikes
Supervisor Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2871